

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 OPIC-03 OMB-01 ACDA-05

CIEP-01 AF-06 AID-05 IGA-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01

EURE-00 /094 W

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P R 031610Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0017

INFO AMEMBASSY COPNEHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

S E C R E T OSLO 2776

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB,PFOR,PINT,NO,PO

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN LABOR VISIT TO PORTUGAL

REFS: (A) OSLO 2712

(B) OSLO 2683

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. SUMMARY.

LABOR PARTY PARLIAMENTARY

LEADER NORDLI AND LO INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY SANDEGREN

VISITED PORTUGAL JUNE 29-30 TO SEE MARIO SOARES AND PORTUGUESE

SOCIALISTS. ACCORDING TO SANDEGREN, THEY WERE IMPRESSED AT

SOCIALISTS' COHESION, GROWING

CONFIDENCE,IMPROVED ORGANIZATION AND SWELLING POPULAR SUPPORT.

SOCIALISTS SAID SITUATION STILL VERY MUCH TOUCH

AND GO; NEXT WEEKS WILL BE DECISIVE. DIVIDED MILITARY,

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SHAKEN BY ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES,MAY COALESCE TO FAVOR

EITHER CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT,PARTY PARTICIPATION,
AND MOVE TOWARD DEMOCRACY OR STRICTER MILITARY RULE WITH
COMMUNIST VOICE. SOCIALISTS URGED
CONTINUED NORWEGIAN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT,
ESPECIALLY DURING NEXT FEW WEEKS. BILATERAL AND
MULTILATERAL AID WERE DISCUSSED,DESIREABILITY OF AS-
SISTANCE IN ECONOMIC PLANNING AGREED UPON, AND NORWEGIAN
FINANCE MINISTER WILL OFFER SUCH ASSISTANCE DURING
HIS VISIT NEXT WEEK(REF B). PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS
ARE INVITING OTHER EUROPEAN SOCIALIST PARTIES AND ARMED
FORCES MOVEMENT(MFA) TO COLLOQUIUM ON DEMOCRATIC SOC-
IALIST SOLUTIONS TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS, JULY
18-19. NORWAY WILL PROBABLY SEND AN IMPRESSIVE DELEGATION.
END SUMMARY

1. NORWEGIAN LABOR PARTY PARLIAMENTARY LEADER (AND
ACKNOWLEDGED FUTURE PRIME MINISTER) ODVAR NORDLI AND
TRADE UNION FEDERATION(LO) INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY
KAARE SANDEGREN FLEW TO LISBON JUNE 29 AND SPENT MUCH
OF NIGHT IN CONVERSATION WITH MARIO SOARES,WHO WAS TO
MEET REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL NEXT DAY. BEFORE LEAVING
JUNE 30, NORWEGIANS MET WITH MANY OTHER SOCIALIST LEADERS,
INCLUDING LEADER IN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY,TREASURER,
SECRETARIAT MEMBERS AND REPUBLICA SUPERVISING EDITOR
(JOAE GOMES). ACCORDING TO SANDEGREN,SOCIALISTS SAID
NEXT FEW WEEKS WILL BE DECISIVE. MAJORITY IN REVOLUTIONARY
COUNCIL MAY SWING EITHER TOWARD TIGHT MILITARY RULE WITH
COMMUNIST VOICE OR IN PLURALIST DIRECTION,WITH ROLE FOR
PARTIES,DEVELOPMENT OF CONSTITUTION AND INCREASING FREEDOM.
GRAVE ECONOMIC SITUATION IS FINALLY IMPRESSING MILITARY.
DEMONSTRATIONS THAT WESTERN SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE TO A NON-
COMMUNIST PORTUGAL ARE CRUCIAL NOW, AS CIRCUMSTANCES FORCE MILITARY
TO DECIDE FUTURE COURSE.

2. SANDEGREN SAID SOCIALISTS ARE CONVINCED COMMUNIST
PARTY IS STILL EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES FOR SEIZING POWER.
SOCIALISTS THEREFORE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF WEST'S
USE OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO IMPRESS SOVIETS AND EASTERN
EUROPEANS WITH HARMFUL CONSEQUENCES A COMMUNIST OR
COMMUNIST-SUPPORTED POWER SEIZURE WOULD HAVE
FOR DETENTE. ACCELERATING ECONOMIC DECLINE,ESPECIALLY
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UNEMPLOYMENT,IS WORRYING SOCIALISTS. SPECULATION IS
THAT COMMUNISTS MAY BE ENCOURAGING CHAOS TO STIMULATE
POPULAR DEMAND FOR STRONG RULE. ON OTHER HAND, COM-
MUNISTS HAVE MOVED SLIGHTLY IN DIRECTION OF MORE COOPERA-
TION,ESPECIALLY IN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. THIS MAY
REFLECT COMMUNIST CONCERN AT ALLIANCE BETWEEN OTELO DE
CARVALHO AND FARTHER LEFT ELEMENTS RATHER THAN SOVIET
RESPONSE TO NORWEGIAN AND OTHER WESTERN WARNINGS.

3. END CONFIDENTIAL. BEGIN SECRET. RELATIVE STRENGTH OF DIFFERENT ELEMENTS IN MILITARY WERE DISCUSSED. PICTURE REMAINS UNCLEAR; NO GROUP HAS UPPER HAND AT MOMENT. EVEN CARVALHO'S COPCON IS DIVIDED, WITH OPORTO COMMANDER NOT SHARING CARVALHO'S ANTI-SOCIALIST ATTITUDES. ARRIVAL OF ADMIRAL CRESPO AND 20,000 TROOPS FROM MOZAMBIQUE MAY STRENGTHEN MODERATES A LITTLE. (SOCIALISTS HAD 80 PERCENT OF VOTES IN MOZAMBIQUE.) FLUIDITY OF SITUATION WITHIN MILITARY WAS DEMONSTRATED BY REPORT OF REACTION WHEN POSSIBILITY OF ARRESTING MARIO SOARES WAS VAGUELY DISCUSSED; THOUGH THERE WERE NO INDICATIONS ISSUE WOULD COME TO VOTE, ONE OF OFFICERS PHONED AIRBASE AND GOT THREAT TO BOMB REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL IMMEDIATELY UNLESS SUBJECT WAS DROPPED. ANOTHER EXAMPLE WAS CARVALHO'S EFFECTIVE REVERSAL OF DECISION TO TURN REPUBLICA BACK TO EDITORIAL STAFF.

END SECRET

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. SANDEGREN SAID TRIPARTITE MEETINGS (MILITARY-EDITORS-PRINTERS) ON REPUBLICA QUESTION WERE TO BEGIN JUNE 30 OR JULY 1 AND THERE IS HOPE OF SOME SOLUTION. CATHOLIC RADIO PROBLEM IS APPARENTLY BEING RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY; AS A RESULT RADIO'S CAPTORS BEGAN BROADCASTING PROTESTS AGAINST DECISION TO RETURN STATION TO CHURCH. NORWEGIANS WERE CONVINCED THAT CHURCH AND SOCIALISTS ARE NOT AT CROSS-PURPOSES IN BASIC AIMS AND APPROACH.

5. NORWEGIANS VISITED CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. EXPECTATIONS WERE THAT CONSTITUTION WITH ELEMENTS OF DEMOCRACY WILL BE ADOPTED. SOCIALIST PARTY GROUP DRAFT
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WILL BE READY NEXT WEEK, AS WILL THOSE OF OTHER PARTIES. NEXT STAGE WILL BE DISCUSSION IN COMMITTEE TO TRY TO REACH AGREED COMMON DRAFT.

6. NORWEGIAN AND EFTA AID TO PORTUGAL WERE DISCUSSED.

SOCIALISTS STRESSED GRAVE ECONOMIC SITUATION, NEED FOR AID AND FOR POSITIVE STEPS DURING IMMEDIATE CRITICAL PERIOD. NORWEGIANS TOLD SOCIALISTS THEY PROPOSED TO OFFER PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING ECONOMIC PLANNING CAPACITY. SOCIALISTS SHARED NORWEGIANS' ENTHUSIASM ABOUT THIS AS METHOD TO DEMONSTRATE AND ENCOURAGE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST APPROACH. FINANCE MINISTER KLEPPE WILL THEREFORE OFFER SUCH ASSISTANCE DURING HIS VISIT JULY 8-9.

7. SOCIALISTS ARE HOLDING COLLOQUIUM IN PORTUGAL JULY 18-19 ON HOW SOCIALIST SOLUTIONS WORK TO SOLVE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN DIFFERENT DEMOCRATIC SETTINGS. SOCIALIST PARTIES FROM EUROPEAN DEMOCRACIES ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. MFA IS ALSO INVITED. SANDEGREN SAID NORWEGIANS WILL SEND KEY FIGURES FROM VARIOUS SECTORS OF BROADLY-DEFINED "LABOR MOVEMENT", (I.E. LABOR PARTY, LO,GOVERNMENT,WORKERS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION AND MANY OTHER "SATELLITE" ORGANIZATIONS). HE SAID NORWEGIAN PARTICIPANTS MIGHT BE NEW,YOUNG LABOR PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL IVAR LEVERAAS,FINANCE UNDER SECRETARY BJORN SKOGSTAED AAMO(ONE OF PARTY'S BRIGHTEST RISING YOUNG POLITICIANS AND INTELLECTUALS),SEAMEN'S UNION PRESIDENT HENRIK AASAROD(CAPABLE AND INFLUENTIAL UNION PRESIDENT,MEMBER OF PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND LO EXECUTIVE BOARD) AND ALF FROTJOLD, ACTING DIRECTOR OF WORKERS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION(NATIONAL ADULT,POLITICAL AND TRADE UNION EDUCATION AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION). AAMO COULD ALSO CONTINUE AID DISCUSSIONS AND AASAROD COULD LOOK INTO FISHING ASSISTANCE.

8. NORWEGIANS WERE PLEASED AT DEPTH OF LEADERSHIP, AND CONFIDENCE,COHESION AND STRENGTH SOCIALISTS EXUDED. A PRIVATE OPINION POLL SHOWED THEM WITH OVER 50PERCENT POPULAR SUPPORT, ALTHOUGH THIS MIGHT EXAGGERATE REALITY. SOCIALISTS REFERRED TO GROWING STRENGTH WITHIN
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INDIVIDUAL UNIONS AND TO ABILITY TO PUT MASSES IN STREETS WHILE COMMUNISTS COULD MOBILIZE ONLY LIMITED NUMBERS (REVERSING SITUATION IMMEDIATELY AFTER REVOLUTION). SOCIALISTS SEEMED TO BE MAKING STEADY PROGRESS IN ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY.
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